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USIB-D-40.1/2  
10 January 1962

## UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Chicom Publications

REFERENCES : a. USIB-D-40.1/1, 7 November 1961  
b. USIB-M-166, 1 August 1961, item 8

1. Originally it had been planned to ask the Board to discuss the problem regarding Chicom Publications set forth in reference a. above. Recent consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications [ ] and the Committee on Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications (Mr. Bagnall) disclosed, however, that neither of them now deemed a formal Board discussion of this question essential, particularly because of the general view expressed in their report that "no publicity should be given to the problems which we face in obtaining Chicom publications."

2. Accordingly, we do not propose to place this matter on the agenda of a USIB meeting unless requested to do so by a Board member. Unless, therefore, before close of business on Friday, 19 January, a USIB member objects or wishes a Board discussion of this matter, we will consider that USIB has noted the memorandum from the two Chairmen (including its two attachments) and concurred in the view expressed in paragraph 3 which was quoted above.

[ ]  
Executive Secretary

Recd. "D" plus  
1 cc to Mr. [ ]  
1 cc to Mr. Bagnall

No calls received.  
"Memorandum and 2 attachments considered  
"noted" as of SECRET 19 Jan 1962.  
See Sec. Note 1, USIB-M-197, 22 Jan 62.

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7 November 1961

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Chicom Publications

REFERENCE : USIB-M-166, 1 August 1961, item 8

1. Pursuant to Board direction, the Chairmen of the Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications and the Committee on Exploitation of Foreign Language Publications have submitted the attached memorandum (Tab A), together with two factual summaries. As indicated, one is prepared from the "exploitation" point of view (Tab B) and the other from the "procurement" viewpoint (Tab C).

2. This matter will be placed on the agenda of an early Board meeting.



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Executive Secretary

Attachments

Distribution: Regular "D" plus 65 copies to Sec. Procurement of Fgn. Pubs.  
15 copies to Sec. Committee on Expl. Fgn. Pubs.

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Tab A

USIB-D-40.1/1

7 November 1961

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

COMMITTEE ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : Chicom Publications

REFERENCE : USIB-M-166, 1 August 1961, para. 8

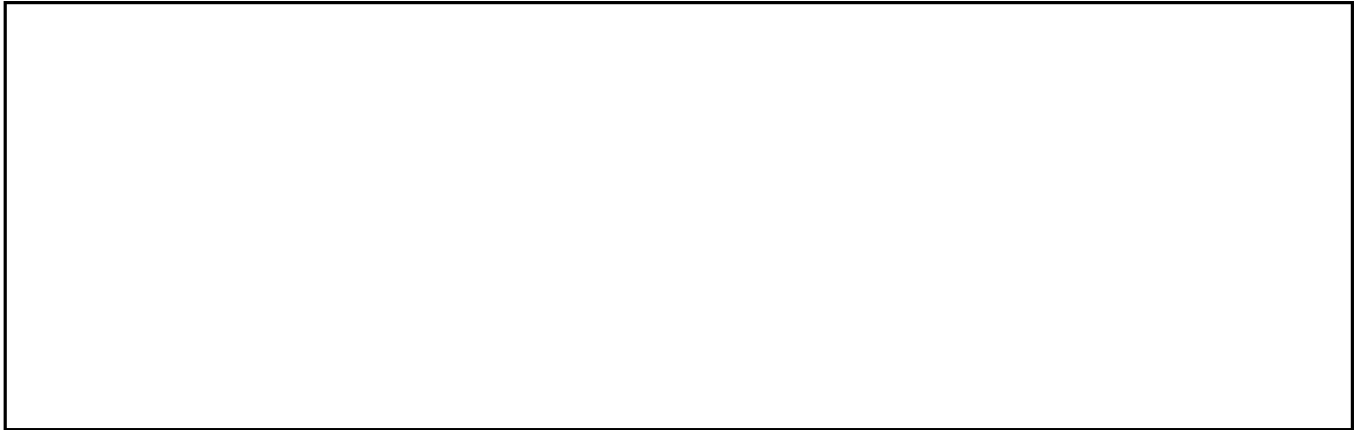
1. At the USIB meeting under reference the Chairman requested that the undersigned prepare a summary of facts on the subject of restrictive exports of Chicom publications from the "exploitation" and "procurement" points of view, which might serve as the basis for appropriate publicity.

2. Attached herewith are two papers, one from the exploitation point of view, the other from the procurement point of view.



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Chairman, Committee on Procurement of  
Foreign Publications



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*J. V. Bagnall*  
J. V. BAGNALL  
Chairman, Committee on Exploitation of  
Foreign Language Publications

Attachments

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Tab B

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7 November 1961

## STATUS OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS

The Association for Asian Studies released in April 1961 an accessions list entitled Chinese Periodicals-International Holdings 1949-1960. This accessions list, which includes the holdings of 23 widely scattered repositories, such as the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, National Diet Library in Tokyo, and Union Research Institute in Hong Kong, gives substance to a frequently discussed subject in the world of academic research, that is, the ban by Communist China of the export of its publications. As G. Raymond Nunn, editor of the accessions list, says in his introduction, "An increasing poverty of world holdings /of Chinese Communist periodicals/ since October 1959, the date of the imposition of restrictions on periodical sales, will be evident from the list."

The implications of such a ban were voiced in Japan when on 25 November 1959 the Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun stated that such a ban, if enforced, would wreck Japanese research on Communist China.

The ban, which did not become drastically effective until mid-1960, was a subject of frequent comment in corridor discussions at the Symposium on Chinese Communist Science, sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New York last December. The paucity of information on scientific developments in Communist China was a matter of considerable concern to most of the Symposium speakers. This paucity has now become almost a vacuum with the almost complete unavailability of current scientific and technical journals.

Researchers in the field of Chinese economy are similarly thwarted in their current studies on Communist China. Statistical data in all fields of the Chinese Communist economy have dried up.

Agricultural statistics, despite some unreliability, were abundantly available on the National and some provincial levels of China until 1960. Such statistics now appear only rarely and usually on a very low level, e.g. a commune or more usually a production team. The more fundamental problems in the managerial direction of commune agriculture cannot be properly studied at present from publications. For instance, the Chinese Communist propaganda that communization is to be pushed further does not agree with Chinese refugees' reports in Hong Kong that the commune system is collapsing. Adequate published data to properly study the status of agriculture is lacking.

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A checklist of deficiencies of published information in the broad fields of industry and economic services would be almost as big as a catalog index of subjects in these fields. Spotty reports on short term production in individual plants, factories, and mines appear in New China News Agency releases and in the Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao and certain other Peking newspapers which are allowed outside of China. Most of these reports are in percentages and most of the press space is devoted to so-called technical innovations, the revolutionary spirit of arduous struggle by factory workers, and the need to use the dialectical theory of contradictions in all things including the operations of a blast furnace. Up to the present, 1961 production plans for the various sectors of the economy have not appeared in any available literature. Annual budget and work reports on national, provincial, and municipal levels, formerly published with regularity, are completely missing in available publications.

Except for overweening propaganda the same ignorance prevails in the non-economic fields of Communist China. Almost unavailable is any information on religion, education (except for indoctrination on the laborization of intellectuals and the pursuit of the rectification program of "blooming and contending"), and minority nationalities. Laws, regulations, and even treaties appear only rarely. Theoretical discussions on Chinese domestic problems have all but disappeared, and even those in the field of international affairs seem watered down in the one available theoretical journal, Hung-ch'i (Red Flag).

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Tab C

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7 November 1961

## PROCUREMENT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS

In reviewing the procurement of Chinese Communist publications through the facilities of the U.S. Foreign Service and related channels during the period 1949-1961, one is impressed by the fact that the availability of Chicom publications has been most unstable and has varied from month to month and year to year.

The major problem affecting orderly procurement of Chinese newspapers, periodicals, books and monographs has continued to stem from the lack of U.S. diplomatic representation on the mainland of China. Without means for direct and open contact between U.S. publications procurement officers and Chinese book agents, dealers, and publishers, the wide interests of the U.S. Government for Chicom publications have been forced primarily into the Hong Kong area of competing black marketeers, of commercial book stores not sufficiently well stocked, and of smugglers with items of sometimes questionable value. During the past twelve years, the acquisition of overtly published Chinese mainland publications has been largely dependent upon far-from-overt means of supply.

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By 1955, paralleling to a degree the post-Geneva atmosphere and its effects on USSR publications availability, the open market availability of Chicom publications started to increase significantly. At the beginning of 1955, for example, the Consulate General at Hong Kong acquired about 380 newspapers and 200 journal titles. More than 3,800 book and monograph volumes were received in 1955, an increase of 27 percent over 1954.

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